

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PPC:LUIGI EINAUDI:JLP
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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084912

FROM TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND TO THE PRESIDENT'S OAS SPEECH

1. THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST COUNTRY LEADERS.
 2. THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO THE OAS TODAY, HIS SECOND FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS SINCE TAKING OFFICE AND THE FIRST DEALING WITH RELATIONS WITH A SPECIFIC PART OF THE WORLD, WAS THE PRODUCT OF AN INTENSE AND CREATIVE PROCESS IN WHICH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND I, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI, AND THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF WERE INVOLVED AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF OUR STAFFS. IN FACT, THE PRESIDENT MADE A NUMBER OF AD LIB COMMENTS DURING DELIVERY
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THAT UNDERScoreD HIS PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AND TO INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS GENERALLY.

3. THE DECISION WAS MADE EARLY ON THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD CONSCIOUSLY AVOID INFLATED RHETORIC OR SLOGANS, AND MAKE NO PROMISES THAT COULD NOT BE KEPT. HIS INTENT, RATHER, WAS TO GIVE A GENERAL FRAMEWORK AND DIRECTION FOR FUTURE

POLICY WITHOUT ENTERING INTO GREAT DETAIL AT THIS EARLY

STATE OF THE ADMINISTRATION. WE WILL ALL, I AM SURE, BE HEARING A GREAT DEAL MORE FROM THE PRESIDENT AS TIME GOES ON.

4. THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK SET FORTH BY THE SPEECH IS ONE OF RELATING TO THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AS FULL MEMBERS OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY RATHER THAN AS U.S. DEPENDENCIES. THE PRESIDENT TOOK PAINS TO RECOGNIZE LATIN AMERICAN GLOBAL INITIATIVES AS WELL AS THE GROWING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DIVERSITY OF THE HEMISPHERE'S COUNTRIES. HIS INTENT WAS TO SIGNAL A BALANCED APPROACH IN WHICH THE U.S. WOULD NOT SHRINK FROM WHATEVER FORM OF COOPERATION, BE IT BILATERAL, REGIONAL OR GLOBAL, THAT MIGHT BE NEEDED TO MEET A PARTICULAR PROBLEM.

5. THE UNUSUAL EMPHASIS ON RESTRAINING THE GLOBAL ARMS RACE IS A NOTABLE CASE IN POINT. THE PRESIDENT INDICATED CLEARLY THAT OUR POLICIES OF ARMS RESTRAINT IN THIS HEMISPHERE ARE PART OF A GLOBAL RATHER THAN A PURELY REGIONAL APPROACH, AND WOULD REACH SUPPLIERS AS WELL AS POTENTIAL PURCHASERS OF ARMS. SIMILARLY, OUR ADHERENCE TO PROTOCOL I OF THE TREATY OF TLAZOLTECO SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD AS PART OF A GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT.

6. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT FOR PROTOCOL I SYMBOLIZES A BASIC STYLE OF NOT PREACHING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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OTHERS, BUT OF BEHAVING OURSELVES IN A MANNER THAT SETS THE KIND OF EXAMPLE WE WOULD HOPE MIGHT ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO FOLLOW. IN A SIMILAR VEIN, ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT DID NOT MENTION THESE DETAILS SPECIFICALLY IN HIS SPEECH, WE HAVE ALREADY ACTED OURSELVES ON POLITICAL REFUGEES BY MAKING SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAMS OF CONCERNED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND BY SUPPORTING PROVISIONS OF LEGISLATION BEFORE CONGRESS THAT WOULD AMEND THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT TO BRING OUR DEFINITIONS OF POLITICAL REFUGEES IN HARMONY WITH THOSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTOCOL ON THE STATUS OF REFUGEES, A CHANGE THAT WOULD ENABLE US TO RESPOND MORE RAPIDLY TO REFUGEE SITUATIONS IN THIS HEMISPHERE. FINALLY, THE REAFFIRMATION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO NON-INTERVENTION FOLLOWED SIMILAR LINES: THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT "WE WILL NOT ACT ABROAD IN WAYS THAT WE WOULD NOT TOLERATE AT HOME IN OUR OWN COUNTRY," IS PARTICULARLY POWERFUL GIVEN THE RECENT DOMESTIC CONTEXT.

7. OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE SPEECH INCLUDE:

-- THE REAFFIRMATION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, WITH A DELIBERATE EMPHASIS ON NON-PUNITIVE AND MULTI-LATERAL MEASURES, INCLUDING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS;

-- THE PLEDGE TO CONSULT ON TRADE AND OTHER NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES SO AS TO INTEGRATE LATIN AMERICAN CONCERNS INTO OUR OWN POLICY FORMULATION;

-- THE WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE WITH COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE POOREST NEW WAYS OF APPROACHING COOPERATION ON INSTITUTIONAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL MATTERS AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT;

-- AND THE EMPHASIS ON PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROGRAMS,
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INCLUDING CULTURAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES, AN EMPHASIS LINKED FOR THE FIRST TIME TO THE INFLUENCE OF OUR OWN DOMESTIC SPANISH-SPEAKING POPULATION ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE.

8. I WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IF, IN ADDITION TO REPORTING HOST COUNTRY REACTIONS, YOU COULD PROVIDE ME WITH YOUR OWN REFLECTIONS, PARTICULARLY AS TO THE KINDS OF IMPLEMENTING STEPS YOU BELIEVE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, BOTH IN GENERAL AND WITH REGARD TO YOUR COUNTRY.
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